



WEST DES MOINES HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Commissioners Present: Sanjita Pradhan, Heather Schott, Mark Hillenbrand, Mindy Begenat, Lonnelle Dafney

Commissioners Absent with notice: Dr. Rich Salas, Bernell Edwards

Staff Representative: Laura Reveles

Council Liaison: Councilwoman Renee Hardman

Guests: Tom Hadden, Teva Dawson

1. Call to order: Meeting called to order at 4:35 p.m.

2. Roll call

3. Approval of April 2019 Minutes

Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand motioned to approve, Commissioner Heather Schott seconded, minutes approved

4. Opportunity for public to address the Commission

- 4 students were here on behalf of government hours

5. Staff report

- Staff liaison for the Commission Laura Reveles covered the following topic:
 - Phone Line: No messages
 - No updates since the commission met two weeks ago

6. Report from Commissioners on recent activities

- Commissioner Heather Schott and Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand stated that students will be present next week at the Community Conversation meeting.

7. Chair report: Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan

- Staff will schedule Rachelle Long to visit the next meeting for the Taste of Valley Junction and discuss financial support for the event.
- Discussion took place with Tom Hadden and Councilwoman Renee Hardman on the event and past events
 - See what presence we can have at the event with sponsorship
 - See if we can help other communities have a presence at the event
 - Councilwoman Renee Hardman would like to see how we can partner and grow this event
 - Tom and Rachelle can meet to help decide how to present to the group

8. Old business

- Commission Chair Sanjita Pradhan brought up the previous conversations around data on the city and providing a one page Infographic. Staff will email the commission the data to look at.

9. New business

- World Refugee Day Donation
 - Commissioner Mindy Begenat recommended having listening sessions with groups like this one and having discussions on how to help these communities
 - Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand motioned to donate to this event and Commissioner Lonnelle Dafney seconded.
 - Discussion took place on the future of donations and being strategic
- Potential Donations and partnerships
 - Will discuss in the strategy sessions

Councilwomen Renee Hardman discussed the following:

- She would like the City of West Des Moines, through corporate sponsorships, to host a Martin Luther King Day event.
 - Commissioner Heather Schott and Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand agreed that the commission can help support this event and can work through the strategy sessions to see how this can tie in the future
- She proposed the idea of a community bus trip to a museum in Alabama, to offer a life experience trip to the citizens.
 - Commissioner Mindy Begenat suggested we find a way to bring the experience here to West Des Moines as well so that everyone can experience it.
 - Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand would advocate that we bring the groups to the community conversations monthly meeting and host more discussion after the event.

10. Next meeting date May 28, 2019, 5:00pm – 6:30pm

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:15pm.

Commissioner Heather Schott moved to adjourn, Commissioner Mark Hillenbrand seconded

Minutes by: Laura Reveles